

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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R 132030Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1610
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 5003

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW) UN, NS, US, XL, XM, SHUM, EAID
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S MEETING WITH SURINAMESE PRESIDENT
FERRIER

1. ON AUG 10, AMBASSADORS YOUNG AND ZURHELLEN, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHELTON, ARA/PPC DIRECTOR EINAUDI AND USUN MISOFF MET WITH SURINAM PRESIDENT FERRIER, PRIME MINISTER AARON AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER VAN GENDEREN. FERRIER EXPRESSED HIS GREAT PLEASURE AT YOUNG'S VISIT AND NOTED CLOSE US-SURINAM TIES. EXPRESSING PRIDE IN SURINAM'S RECORD OF DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS, HE FULLY SUPPORTED THE PRESIDENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES. YOUNG SAID THAT HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE RAPID STRIDES SURINAM HAD MADE SINCE INDEPENDENCE, THE HIGH STANDARD OF HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH PREVAIL AND THE CORDIAL RELATIONS WHICH EXIST WITH THE UNITED STATES.

2. FERRIER OUTLINED THE HISTORY OF US-SURINAM RELATIONS, SURINAM'S HARMONIOUS EVOLUTION TO INDEPENDENCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH DUTCH PLANS AND THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP SURINAM ENJOYS WITH THE NETHERLANDS.

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3. IN RESPONSE TO SHELTON'S QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW SURINAM VIEWS ITS FUTURE, FERRIER SAID HE CONSIDERED IT A DISADVANTAGE FOR SURINAM TO BE A DUTCH-SPEAKING "ISLAND" IN THE HEMISPHERE. DUTCH IS A BARRIER HOWEVER TO CLOSER LINKS. SURINAM IS SEEKING A ROLE IN THE HEMISPHERE AND DOES NOT PERCEIVE ITSELF AS A CARIBBEAN COUNTRY--NEITHER ECONOMICALLY NOR POLITICALLY. THE GOAL IS PLANNING TO CHANGE THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE BY THE YEAR 2000--TO

EITHER ENGLISH OR SPANISH.

4. NOTING CARIBBEAN DISUNITY AND DISPARITY, FERRIER SAID IT WOULD NOT PROFIT SURINAM TO JOIN THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES. FERRIER ADDED HOWEVER THAT SURINAM'S EXAMPLE OF HOW DIVERSE ETHNIC GROUPS CAN LIVE TOGETHER COULD SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE TO THE CARIBBEAN. HE NOTED VENEZUELAN OFFERS TO TRADE OIL FOR BUAXITE--ON WHICH NOTHING HAS YET DEVELOPED--AND A JOINT VENTURE FOR OIL DRILLING. HE AGAIN EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOS SEES SURINAM'S ROLE IN A HEMISPHERIC RATHER THAN CARIBBEAN CONTEXT.
HURWITCH

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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